

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Thursday - 8 October 1953

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1. I handed to Speaker Martin the DCI's letter offering him the briefing to his forthcoming trip abroad. The Speaker was grateful, but was inclined to think that such a briefing would not be necessary. He said that he had general knowledge of the situation and that he was not going abroad on a trip that would require special briefing. Furthermore, he is taking former Ambassador Henry Fletcher with him who has knowledge of the various countries concerned. He expressed appreciation for the offer and if he changes his mind he will let us know.

2. Mr. Robert Morris, Counsel for the Internal Security Subcommittee, stated that Mr. Fink, of the Department of Justice, which is making an extensive study of the [redacted], would like access to the Subcommittee hearings in that case. Mr. Morris said that this request had the approval of Senators McCarran and Jenner on the same basis as the transmittal of the record to the Department of State, and that the Department of State copy could be made available to the Department of Justice if it met with our approval. In Mr. Houston's absence, it is recommended that Mr. Fforzheimer discuss this matter with Mr. Rogers, the Deputy Attorney General, to ascertain the extent of the Justice Department's interest in the case, who will handle same, and the safeguards that will be provided. It must be remembered that if the Justice Department proceeds with this case to grand jury action, circumstances similar to the [redacted] might arise if it becomes necessary to have certain CIA officials testify before the grand jury.

3. Mr. Robert Morris is requesting that [redacted] meet with him in New York (at the Committee's expense) on 13 October in order to go over [redacted] prospective testimony. Mr. Morris also desires to have [redacted] meet in New York with General Barmine, of the Voice of America, in whom Mr. Morris has the greatest of personal confidence.

4. Mr. Cotter, of the staff of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, informed me that from time to time the Committee requests various agencies of the Executive Branch to make a security check of the Committee quarters to make certain that there are no microphones or other bugs

DOS & DOJ review(s) completed.

hidden. This is particularly in view of the fact that the Committee has no such facilities of its own. Mr. Cotter believes that CIA has previously done this for the Committee, but Col. Edwards does not recall such action on our part. It is his feeling that my recommendation that we should not become involved in this work unless we desired to do so on a day on which CIA officials are testifying.

5. Mr. Walsh, Staff Director of the House Baltic Committee, consulted me on an article he proposes to release over Congressman Kersten's name when the latter returns from Europe next week. I have indicated that in my opinion it would be preferable to consult with USIA on this matter, and he proposes to do so.